

## **HISTORICAL NOTES OF EARLY DAY CORDWOOD PRODUCTION IN THE MEACHAM AREA**

From 1900 to 1909 average cordwood production in vicinity of Meacham and shipped from Huron, Porter, Hibley, Hanlen, Murdock and Meacham averaged about 15,000 cords per year.

1910 to 1915 averaged about 8,000 cords per year  
1916 to 1920 averaged about 3,500 cords per year  
1921 to 1924 averaged about 2,500 cords per year

1884 to 1899 probably the average was around 10,000 cords per year.

It is a well known fact that cordwood production in that area was as high as 50,000 cords for a few years during the time when electric power was generated in Pendleton by wood fired boilers.

Originally the O.R. & N. shipped cordwood by unit measure at a set rate, then sometime before 1900 it was required to be weighed and as the wood weighed very heavy, sometimes as much as two tons per cord, wood shipped was not profitable. Later about 1900 Interstate Commerce fixed \$1.50 per cord freight for so called intermediate points which included Pendleton, Stanfield, Echo, Hermiston, Weston, Athena, Milton, Freewater and Walla Walla. Nearly all wood was shipped to these points. Early day cars could carry from 8 to 10 cords, about 1909 cars were available that carried 12 to 15 cords and 20 cord cars came into use during the later part of the cordwood era.

Most wood cutters worked alone at their job and averaged perhaps between 200 and 250 cords per year per man.

Kamela and near by sidings also produced a great quantity of wood, perhaps about 1/3 that of Meacham and its territory.

### **Meacham Cordwood Production**

1884 to 1899	15 years @ 10,000 cords =	150,000 cords
1900 to 1909	10 years @ 15,000 cords =	150,000 cords
1910 to 1915	6 years @ 8,000 cords =	48,000 cords
1916 to 1920	5 years @ 3,500 cords =	17,500 cords
1921 to 1924	<u>4 years @ 2,500 cords =</u>	<u>10,000 cords</u>
	40 years	375,500 cords
Kemela Cordwood Production		<u>125,000 cords</u>
		500,000 cords

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